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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 27 June 1950

SUBJECT Military Preparations and Evacuation of
Areas North of the 38th Parallel

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1. North Korean authorities have ordered inhabitants to evacuate the area within two kilometers of the 38th Parallel. In explanation of this order they have stated that they wished to protect the lives and property of North Koreans from aimless firing and bombardment or air attack by the South Korean Army. In Hwanghae Province, several hundred families were removed from the border regions of Chwiya-ri (125-34, 38-02), Yongchon (126-26, 38-59) (river), Kalsan (approximately 125-50, 38-12), Kumsan (126-20, 37-54), and Chyon-ni (126-08, 37-58). The removal was carried out at night and utilized trucks that were mobilized in Haeju (125-42, 38-02).
2. Evacuees from the area were moved away from the coast. A limited amount of land has been placed at their disposal by the People's Army, but it is inadequate for the number of evacuees. A disturbance among these evacuees has occurred because the removal was made at the beginning of the planting season.
3. In early 1950, the town of Yonchon (127-04, 38-06) was ordered evacuated and by early April almost all the inhabitants had left or were arranging their property in preparation for departure. Each family which evacuated was to receive a government bonus of 3,000 won if there were fewer than 5 members and 5,000 won if there were more than 5 members. Evacuees are being resettled in Wonsan (127-26, 39-10), Hambung (127-32, 39-54), and on government-operated farms in South Hwanghae Province.
4. In early April 1950, Yonchon and other border posts were being fortified by the construction of pill-boxes. In Yonchon pill-boxes are being constructed on the high ground that is situated for three kilometers southwest from the railway station towards Guncha-san (鳴鶴山). In four communities around the pill-box area, self-defense units have been organized to provide sentries for the fortifications; the units are receiving guerrilla warfare training from the People's Army in rear areas. Members are equipped with M-99 rifles. In addition, a People's Army unit of 30 men, with 3 signal personnel and 2 doctors, is stationed at Yonchon. Its equipment includes a mortar, 2 guns camouflaged under wooden buildings, 20 rifles, and 5 machine guns. The Yonchon headquarters also serves as liaison office for the self-defense units.

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